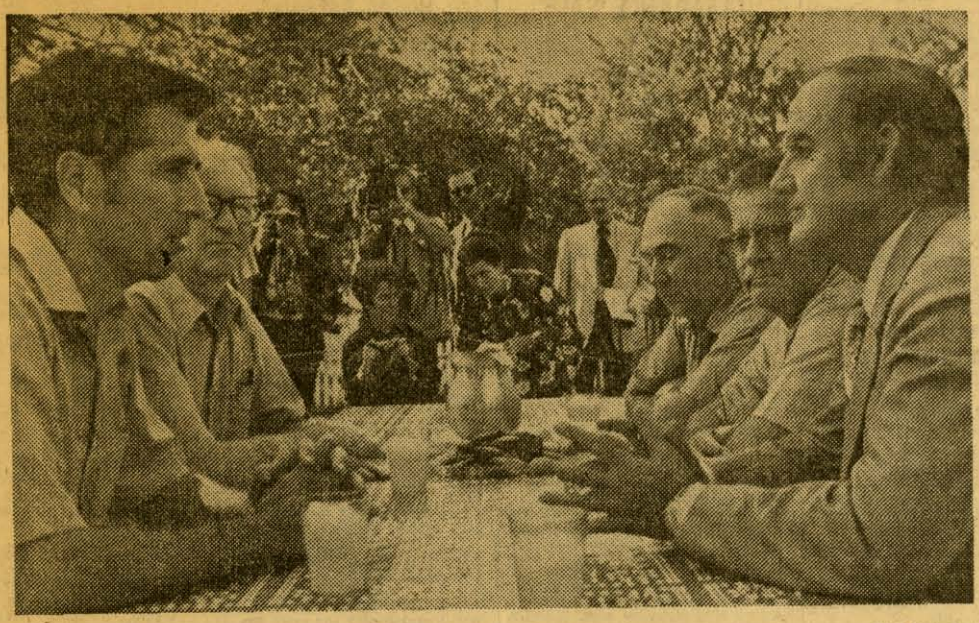

UPI Telephoto

Sen. George McGovern discusses farm situation with farmer Philip Broderick whose farm the candidate visited at Waukee, Ia.

McGovern Assails U. S. Report on Farm Policy

BY FRED FARRAR
Chicago Tribune Press Service

DES MOINES, Sept. 8—Sen. George McGovern charged here today that the Nixon administration has a plan that would turn the farms of America into "giant mechanized factories in the field, operated by remote control from the board rooms of Chicago and New York and Los Angeles."

Speaking at an airport rally, after a visit to a nearby farm and a talk with four farmers, the Democratic Presidential nominee said the plan is contained in a recent report by a committee of Agriculture Department executives entitled "New Directions for U. S. Agriculture Policy."

McGovern said the plan "calls for phasing out all farm price support programs, including loans and purchases" and forecasts a $6 billion reduction in farm income.

Sees Decline in Number

He said it speculates that the number of farms will decline from 2.7 million today to 600,000.

McGovern said it is clear that this report represents the agriculture blueprint for a second Nixon administration, an administration that will not have to come back to farmers for reelection.

"I don't think farmers can afford to take that kind of gamble with their economic future."

At the visit to the farm, McGovern sat on the lawn of the house of Philip Brodrick with Broderick and three other farmers, sipping pink lemonade and talking about the farmers' problems.

Vows Aid for Aged

Earlier today, McGovern pledged "a livable income for every American past 65 and a minimum Social Security payment of $150 a month."

In what he called a major speech on the problems of the aged, also promised to fully protect pensions from inflation, mismanagement, and company failure.

McGovern spoke before a group of residents of a high rise apartment building for senior citizens in Rockford, Ill., before flying to Duluth to tour the Grain Terminal Association plant.

Charging that President Nixon has done nothing constructive for the aged, McGovern said: "Let me tell you what kind of administration I have in mind.

"It will be committed to a livable income for every American who has passed the age of 65—with no exceptions.

"If the dollar goes down or goes up, Social Security will keep pace.

"Pensions will be fully protected from inflation, mismanagement, and company failure.

"And there will be a flat universal Social Security minimum of at least $150 a month."

He called for the removal of the limit on how much retired persons can earn before losing their Social Security benefits. He also called for a national health insurance program that would benefit the elderly and the young.

In a statement released in conjunction with his visit to the Duluth grain plant, McGovern charged the Nixon administration with making it possible for large grain exporters to use inside information to make windfall profits on the sale of 400 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union this year.